

Romans # 165

**“Occupation with Jesus Christ is the key to Understanding Suffering”**

*Romans 12:12 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:14-15 Philippians 3:12-17*

**The winner believer is concerned with the details of life and occupied with the Author of life, Jesus Christ.**

Occupation with Jesus Christ is the highest spiritual function of the believer in time; it's priority #1 love when the mature believer with biblical truth in his soul is capable of appreciating, respecting and loving TLJC.

*Knowledge is always the key; so we cannot love Jesus Christ unless we know Him and we cannot know Him apart from biblical truth in our hearts.*

**Our mental attitude affects everything we do.**

But how do we serve God even when we're suffering?

*Actually, the answer is right here; we can only be serving the Lord and patient while suffering at same time if we focus on Him in joyful hope instead of focusing on our troubles.*

Our rejoicing in hope of our eternal destiny in Christ gives us the patience we need to deal with any and all suffering.

Our ability to be joyful in all situations comes from our relationship with Jesus Christ.

**The things that are not even important in the spiritual experience SO OFTEN substitute for occupation with Christ; like being healed or having some supernatural miraculous experience that's not the objective at all, which is intimate fellowship with Jesus Christ; so when believers neglect the written Word of God, they do not love Jesus Christ, the Living Word.**

**Suffering never leaves us the way it found us and as a result of suffering, we are either better or worse for it, so when we suffer, we'll never be the same again.**

We cannot afford to react to suffering; we are to respond to it and that requires application of biblical truth.

*Spiritual self-esteem is biblical application confidence, the beginning of effective problem-solving in the plan of God for the Church.*

Our spiritual life is not designed to depend upon counseling or advice from others or in any way, using someone else as a crutch.

SSE is simply seeing ourselves as God sees us, producing a life of sharing the happiness of God which begins with contentment and becomes spiritual capacity for life, love and happiness in every circumstance of life including stress, disaster and pain which all of us face sooner or later.